

## Positive Alternatives 2016 - 17 Quarterly Update

**Grantee (Name and city):** Chisago Life Care (DBA Options for Women Chisago Co)

**Location:** 6344 Elm Street, North Branch, MN 55056

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**Goal:** To provide positive alternatives to abortion to pregnant women and parenting men and women

**For the period/quarter:** June 20 – Sept 2016 Quarter 1

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description Major Work Plan Activities	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.	Report Count
<b>Administrative Activities</b>	Hire grant staff Provide guidance to grant staff Attend required grant staff		Our Client Advocate had been a long term volunteer and began working under the grant beginning June 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2016. It took longer to find a Client Services Assistant that was the right fit. She started in the middle of August and is getting acquainted with our programs.	
<b>Outreach</b>	Oversight of web site update and redesign, marketing plan and advertising within the community. Strengthen relationship with existing community partners and identify new community partners in order to identify potential referral sources for clients and increase capacity of programming.		Website: Hired individual to complete web design update. New website design, photos and content have been approved for launch effective 10/11/2016. Official Launch date TBD. Will be creating a web video in the future as a substitute for written "About Us" page. Currently in the process of creating script and finding a date where all staff is available to create this video. Marketing: Have approved and launched advertisement through a professional marketing company. Effective the 1 <sup>st</sup> of October have advertisements at HWY 61 Gas station in Harris and at 3 different local bars (Chisago city, Wyoming and Stacy) to increase awareness of our facility and the services that we provide. These	

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			advertisements will be up for the next year. Part of our Marketing funds were reserved for social media advertisement to increase awareness of various fundraisers and events that will be occurring in the future. (Facebook and Twitter)	
<b>Case Management Services</b>	Provide client follow up for outside and internal programs. Provide referrals and assistance with securing other outside support and social services.	20	We have a great rapport with the majority of our clients. They appreciate our support and nonjudgmental ear. They are happy to be referred and reminded of community resources that will benefit their families.	232
<b>Crib Distribution/ Sleep Safety Education</b>	Provide practical and material assistance through crib distribution to qualifying clients through Cradle of Hope. Provide safe sleep education to all pregnant women. Provide referrals and assistance with securing other outside support and social services.	20	We were able to provide a crib to one of our clients through a partnering agency called The Baby Blanket because her baby was too old to receive a pack n play from Cradle of Hope. They shipped it directly to her home and our client was so happy to receive a safe sleeping environment for her son. Our clients have been so thankful to have the opportunity to earn a pack n play. The safe sleep education allows an opportunity to reinforce how baby should be dressed for sleep and why they should not have blankets. This is confusing for many. As our client numbers increase we will be able to distribute more cribs and/or pack n plays.	6
<b>Employment and Education Assistance</b>	Provide work station and resources for work placement and resources. Provide referrals of qualifying individuals to GED completion program and job counseling internship program	12	We will be purchasing our computer work stations for client use in the next quarter. The clients we saw this quarter that had a need for these referrals were already working with MFIP and were not interested.	0

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<b>Fatherhood Program</b>	Provide one on one mentoring for parenting men to support healthy life and family choices, provide practical support and referrals to assist with securing outside support and social services.	12	We have purchased the curriculum for our Practical Fatherhood program. We are currently in the process of finding male mentors and training them so we can launch this fall.	0
<b>Life-Skills Education Program</b>	Provide one on one and group mentoring and workshops on topics to pregnant women and parenting men and women on life skills topics such as financial management, understanding credit scores, budget planning, etc. Provide referrals and assistance with securing other outside support and social services.	20	Clients who have children under one or are pregnant are most interested in parent education topics related to their pregnancy and taking care of their new babies and not that interested in life-skills lessons. We will try holding group workshops on these topics so it will be easier for clients to increase knowledge in both areas.	5
<b>Material Support/ Mentoring</b>	Provide practical and material assistance to pregnant women and parenting men and women in the form of clothing, diapers and baby equipment. Provide women with information on, referral to and assistance with securing pregnancy and other material support and social services.	90	We assisted many clients and their children with diapers by the dozen, wipes and gently used clothing from our Baby Boutique. Our clients are so thankful to receive this materials assistance so that the funds they do have can be used for other important purposes.	266

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<b>Mental Health</b>	Provide one on one and group mentoring and workshops on topics to pregnant women and parenting men and women on parenting topics focusing on infants, toddlers and siblings. Provide referrals and assistance with securing other outside support and social services.	6	Through our P.A. grant funded curriculum update we were able to share information with clients on emotion coaching of their children. This will benefit both the parent and the child as it reduces stress created by emotional outbursts. Having a plan or method to assist their children in identifying confusing emotions can bring hope to parents as well.	6
<b>Mentoring Programs</b>	Provide one on one and group mentoring and workshops on topics to pregnant women and parenting men and women on topics such as prenatal and postnatal infant development, healthy life choices, parenting support, practical life skills such as budgeting, meal planning and nutrition, smoking cessation classes. Provide referrals and assistance with securing other outside support and social services.	90	Each visit to our location is an opportunity to mentor our clients and encourage them to make positive life choices for both themselves and their children. It is a privilege to offer our clients practical education that will improve their quality of life. As I enlist the help of volunteer mentors our counts will continue to increase. We saw a drop in case visits after the birth of the babies of several clients that all delivered around the same time. Two of these clients have since resumed classes this month and a third moved away. Again we are planning on an increase in this area with the help of our marketing efforts.	68
<b>Parenting Education</b>	Provide one on one and group mentoring and workshops on topics to pregnant women and parenting men and women on parenting topics focusing on infants, toddlers and siblings. Provide referrals and assistance with securing other outside support and social services.	30	Our clients truly appreciate the parenting education classes that we offer. They report that they feel like better mothers because of them. They often comment that they wish they knew about our parent education program earlier or with their previous child. An increased awareness within our community will continue to help us maintain our goal in this area.	48

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<b>Pregnancy Testing</b>	Pregnancy testing and counseling, client intake and provide program information. Provide women with information on, referral to and assistance with securing pregnancy support and social services.	20	We did not see very many women needing pregnancy tests this quarter. We expect our P.A. grant funded marketing efforts will increase the number of clients and pregnancy tests we do in the coming months.	4
<b>Provide Necessary Services to all clients</b>	Provide intake assessment to determine need. Provide women with information on, referral to and assistance with securing pregnancy support and social services. Utilize resource database to provide information and make referrals.	24	We are currently seeing about 15 individual clients on a regular basis that fit the grant limitations. The assessment process really is ongoing. As clients share their struggles at each weekly appointment we offer referrals and help them acquire resources to address their need. We are excited when we can locate a resource to assist a client's unique situation. One example is how we helped a pregnant client get school supplies for her older child through a source in our community.	15
<b>Provide Necessary Services Assessments Only</b>	Provide intake assessment to determine need. Provide women with information on, referral to and assistance with securing pregnancy support services. Utilize resource database to provide information and make referrals	6	We worked with clients who did not live near our center or had children too old per the grant limitations. We offered referrals to centers closer to their home and let them know of county wide assistance and where to go for these helps.	6

<b>Maternal and Child Health Initiative Task Force Strategies</b>	<b>No.</b>
<i>Number of women who received car seats and car seat safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	0
<i>Number of women who received car seat safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	0
<i>Number of women who received child abuse prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	0
<i>Number of women who received abusive head trauma (shaken baby) prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	0
<i>Number of women who received a baby bed, crib, or pack-n-play and sleep safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	6
<i>Number of women who received sleep safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	0

**Challenges:** Having one staff person instead of two to complete the work plan activities for half the quarter contributed to our report count deficits. In addition our lack of marketing efforts before entering into the grant period has possibly hindered our first quarter results. We may have overestimated our potential report counts in some areas.

**Comments:** We have confidence that our numbers will increase now that our marketing is underway and our website will be completely updated very soon. These two pieces will increase community awareness for our center. Our new programs will also draw more clients. We are really excited about the work that the grant funds are allowing us to do as we strive to bring hope and positive alternatives to those in our community.